

B-2996 - B-3001

1835-1837/1870's

719-737 S. Hanover St. (East side)

Baltimore, Md.

Private access

The east side of the 700 block of S. Hanover St. is improved by a row of 2 1/2 story brick houses built for a working class market in 1835-1837 by William G. Read and his wife Sophia Howard Read on property allotted to her in the division of the real estate of her father John Eager Howard. The houses are two bays wide and two rooms deep, with dormer windows, and are typical of the type of late versions of Federal-style houses built in the area in the late 1830's and early 1840's. 721, 725-727, and 729-733 S. Hanover St. all remain in close to their original condition, although the facade of the latter group has been stuccoed. 719 and 723 S. Hanover St. were enlarged and remodeled after the Civil War and now are three stories in height with shed roofs and bracketed cornices. The large three story high, six bay wide brick corner building at 735-737 S. Hanover St. with its Italianate-style bracketed cornice and hooded lintels, represents either a replacement or enlargement of the original 2 1/2 story houses on the site and was built in the 1870's to serve the same combined commercial/residential function that it does today.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

B-2996
MAGI 0429962404

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

719 S. Hanover St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- ☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- ☐ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

- ☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ OTHER: restoration contemplated

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Records Office Room 601

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

B-2996

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This three story high, two bay wide brick structure with a shed roof and Italianate style bracket cornice is an enlargement of an original 2 1/2 story house that was the northernmost member of a row of such houses built on this site in the late 1830's. The facade still shows the Flemish bond brickwork of its 2 1/2 story neighbors and the different character of the brickwork used for the third story is obvious.

The building rises a full three stories in height, is 14' wide, and runs back on its lot about 45'. The main section of the house is two rooms deep, but there is a two story extension to the rear, running the same width as the original building. The front facade is constructed of Flemish bond; the side and rear walls are common bond. The shed roof is surmounted by a wooden cornice of Italianate design, consisting of a projecting crown molding decorated with scalloped cut-work, supported by a row of carved modillions. A lower molding strip is decorated with cut-work star motifs. Three large brackets connect the cornice to a lower molding strip decorated with carved dentils, thus forming a brick frieze which is punctuated by two carved wooden ventilating panels. The double hooded brick chimney is located on the southern side of the house.

The window openings of all floors have flat wooden lintels and sills, like those of the surviving 2 1/2 story houses further down the block. The doorway opening is surmounted by a segmental brick arch. None of the original sash remains and the openings are boarded up. The entrance is reached by a single low wide stone stoop. The house stands on a low basement with a small rectangular coal opening to the right of the stoop.

The floor plan of 719 S. Hanover St. shows the way in which an earlier 2 1/2 story house was enlarged in the late 1860's -1870's. The original house was two rooms deep, with a narrower back extension rising two stories (see 725-727 S. Hanover St.) The sharply winding stairs were located between the front and back rooms, in a niche between the partition wall dividing the rooms and the fireplace of the back room. Both front and back rooms of the first and second floors had fireplaces. Original ceiling heights were about 8 1/2' for the first floor rooms and 8' for the second floor rooms. When the roof was raised and the dormer story extended to a full third story, the former single dormer room became two separate rooms, each about 13' deep. These third story rooms still have only 7 1/2' ceilings. The ceiling height of the first floor front room was raised to 10', but all of the other rooms remained the same. When the house was enlarged, the rear kitchen wing was widened to extend the full width of the house and the stairs were moved to a passageway between the main section of the house and the kitchen extension, thus allowing for the depth of the front room to be increased. On the second floor, however, the stairs to the third floor (formerly the dormer floor) remain in their original position between the front and back rooms. The widening of the kitchen wing provided additional floor space on the second floor, creating a third bedroom some 18' deep. Opening off of this rear room, a 4' deep extension projects out over the rear yard. This small room most recently served as a bathroom.

Today the interior of 719 S. Hanover St. appears to be in close to original condition, except for the above mentioned changes in the floor plan. The front and back rooms of the first floor have 4 1/2' high vertical wainscoting; the kitchen wing has similar wainscoting 3' in height. Painted wood mantelpieces survive on

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1835-1837

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Developed by Wm. G. Read

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is significant as representing one of a group of 2 1/2 story houses with dormer windows which were built by Wm. G. Read along this side of Hanover St. in the late 1830's, a late date for the construction of a basically Federal style house of this type. This particular house was later enlarged to a full three stories in height and now has a shed roof with Victorian style bracketed cornice. Wm. G. Read was the husband of Sophia Howard Read, the daughter of John Eager Howard. Read had this row of houses built on vacant land Sophia Read was allotted in the division of the real estate of her father after his death.

In the 1860's this house was inhabited by Herman Wehage who ran a grocery store directly across Hughes St. at 717 S. Hanover St. (now demolished).¹

¹Baltimore City Directory for 1864, 1865-6, 1873

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. & Eccles

DATE

2/79

STREET & NUMBER

1745 Circle Rd.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ruxton

STATE

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

719 S. Hanover St.

Description, cont.

the second floor. They are finely proportioned and detailed, with a narrow projecting mantel shelf and a thin band of reeding going up each side and across the freize. The interior window frames show a similar reeded treatment. The Greek Revival character of these details suggests they are original to the house before its enlargement.

It is interesting to note how little the original fabric of the structure was actually changed when it was enlarged, despite the fact that the exterior modifications seem so dramatic. The fact that the room layouts, the location and shape of the second floor stairs, were left as they had been originally built shows that economy was an important factor in the remodeling. The owner wanted more space, and he wanted to update the appearance of his building (it was, after all, a commercial establishment on the first floor) but he did not feel the necessity to get involved with extensive interior changes.

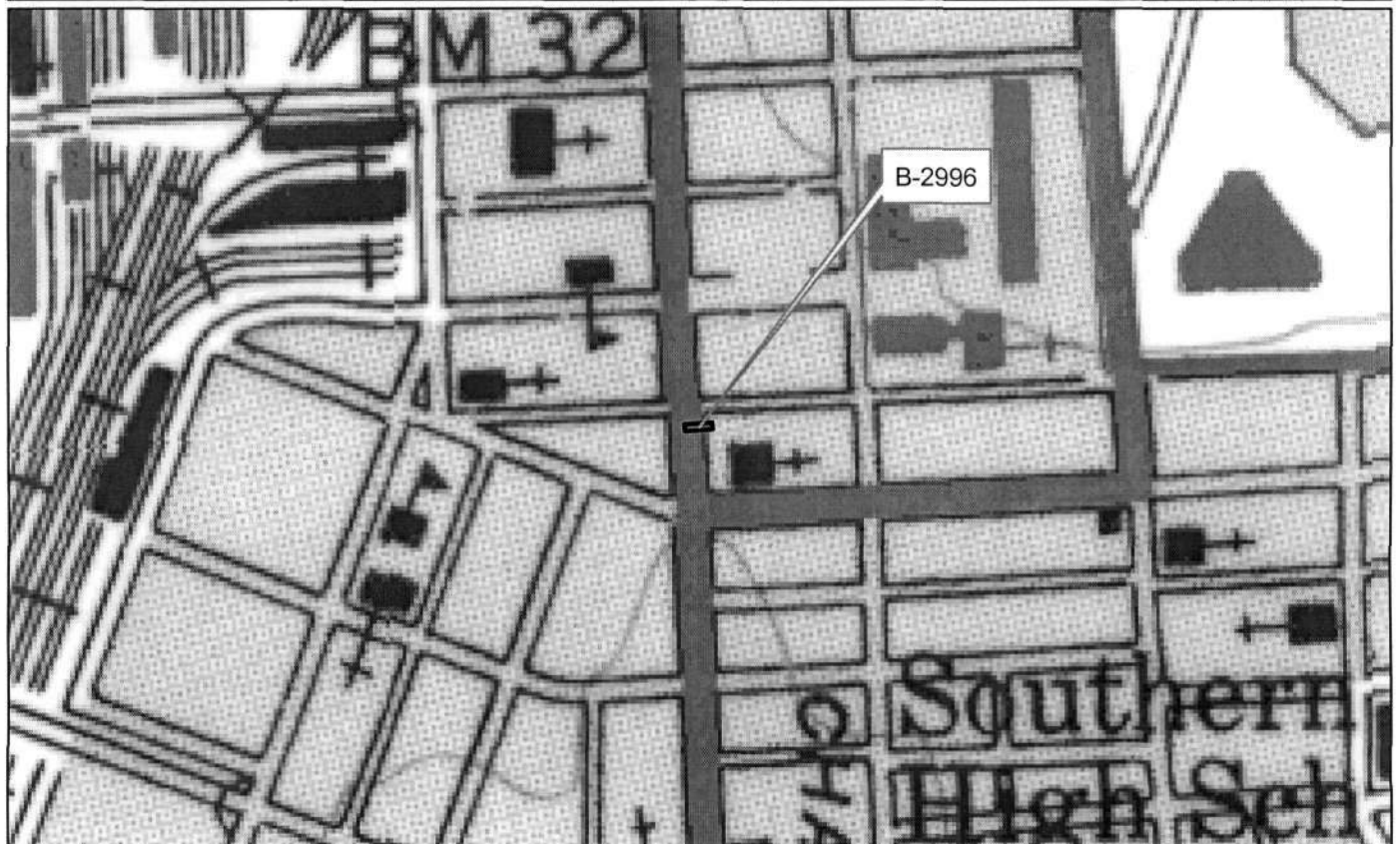
ST.

W. HUGHES 14 12 10 8 ST.

W. MONTGOMERY

ST

B-2996
719 S. Hanover Street
Block 0895 Lots 038
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





B-2996

719 S. Hanover St.

M.E.H.

4/79

West elevation